

CHRIST THE KING & ST. COLMAN (Bitterne) OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION (Hedge End) ST. BRIGID (West End)

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Registered Charity number 1199568

Parish Priest: Fr. Elijah Fru Nde (emergency use phone number 0777 466 7010)

Office: 2 Dean Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO18 6AP – Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am–1pm

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28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C, Cycle 1)

12th October 2025

Reflection from Fr Elijah: Gratitude is Godliness

Isaak Walton said: 'God has two dwellings – one in heaven and the other in a thankful heart.' Two of our readings today feature striking examples of gratitude. In our first reading we hear the story of Naaman, a Syrian Army General, who is cured of leprosy through the intervention of the prophet, Elisha. He expressed gratitude and glorified God. The gospel recounts Jesus' cure of ten lepers, one of whom – a Samaritan – returns to give thanks.

Both examples manifest the spirit of God present and active in unexpected people and places. Naaman is a Gentile, a citizen of Syria, a nation hostile to, and hated by, the Israelites. Yet, in his time of dire need, and on the advice of an Israelite maidservant, he seeks out a prophet from Israel, Elisha. With a heart full of gratitude, he returns to Elisha and gives thanks to the God: 'Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel' (2 Kgs 5:15).

The central character in our gospel reading is a Samaritan. He is one of ten lepers healed by Jesus. The point of the story is that this despised 'foreigner' is the only one who returns to thank Jesus and to praise God for his healing. The other nine seem to take their miraculous healing for granted. They don't even have the common courtesy to thank Jesus. They just continue their way oblivious to the great blessing they have received. The Samaritan, on the other hand, is overcome with gratitude and joy at what Jesus has done for him.

Both Naaman and the grateful Samaritan show that genuine gratitude flows from a heart attuned to the presence and action of God's spirit – faith-filled hearts, appreciative of the gifts they have received from God and others. When things are going well, we can easily take our blessings for granted. Gratitude is much more than saying thanks, though that is important. It is acting out our awareness of being blessed by the way we live. It is, in the words of the American author, Wilferd A. Peterson, *practicing the art of thanks-living*.

Mass Times and Intentions

28th week in Ordinary Time

Exposition & Rosary at 9.30am before Mass (Tue-Fri). Sacrament of Confession is available on request.
Mass Intentions can be requested through Fr Elijah or the Parish Office.

Date		Times & Location		Mass Intentions & Feasts
Sun 12 th October	9.15am	OLA	Mass	Michael Peacock RIP For the quick recovery of Anthony Jeffery Vidot
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	
Tue 14 th October	10am	OLA	Mass	Sylvia Daphne Langlois
Wed 15 th October	10am	SB	Mass	For the people
Thur 16 th October	10am	CKSC	Mass	In thanksgiving for healing of Pat O'Donovan
Fri 17 th October	10am	OLA	Mass	For the repose of the soul of Yolanda Presta
Sat 18 th October	10am	CKSC	Mass	For the people
Sun 19 th October	9.15am	OLA	Mass	For the people Henry Diagboya, Frederick Okonkwo & Dorothy Okonkwo RIP
	11am	CKSC	Mass	
	5.30pm	SB	Mass	
	6pm	CKSC	Mass (in Polish)	

This Sunday's readings can be found at <https://universalis.com/europe.england/20251012/mass.htm>

Second Collection – 19th October – Missio, World Mission Sunday

All Saints & All Souls Feasts: All Saints day will be celebrated on Sunday the 2nd November this year. All Souls will be celebrated on Monday the 3rd November and Father will be saying Mass in all 3 churches: 10am OLA, 12pm St Brigid's, 7pm CKSC. He will take his day off on Tuesday that week.

Update from the Parish Pastoral Council

- In June it was announced by the diocese that there was a possible change in the plan for the larger Pastoral Area our Parish would be joining, instead of linking with St Patrick we would join with the much larger Southampton City Pastoral Area. The PPC requested that our parishioners had a voice in the decision that would be made. In the coming weeks a questionnaire will be given to every parishioner to gather feedback and we would be grateful if you would participate in sharing your thoughts which are of vital importance.
- 19th December - Christmas penitential service to be held at OLA further details will be in the newsletter
- Christmas Mass times have been arranged:
 - 24th Dec CKSC 6pm Carols, 6:30pm Family Mass
 - 24th Dec OLA 10pm Carols, 10:30pm Midnight Mass
 - 25th Dec St Brigids 9am Carols, 9:30am Early morning Mass
 - 25th Dec CKSC 11am Mass
- The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on the 15th January, please submit any points of discussion to the office by the 9th January.

Within our Parish

Parish Safeguarding Minister: Are you a good listener and a friendly face? We need a safeguarding representative from each church who is happy to be a point of contact to those in our church who need a little help. If you are interested in more information, please contact the parish office, or speak with Fr Elijah directly.

Within the Diocese and beyond

CTiB Churches Together in Bitterne: We are looking for a new representative from our parish to take over from Jackie Lang on the committee for CTiB starting January 2026. If you would be interested and would like any further information please speak to Jackie after church on a Sunday, or contact the Parish Office. Please also feel free to come along to our next committee meeting on Wednesday 15th October at Holy Saviour Church at 7.30pm.

Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo: 10th November 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Recurring Events

<i>Our Lady of the Assumption – Hedge End</i> – Tea, coffee, biscuits & friendly chat in the hall every Sunday after Holy Mass – Children's liturgy during Mass every 3rd Sunday of the month (not during summer holidays)	– Carers Group on third Wednesday of every month from 7.00pm to 8.30pm – Growing in Faith every Tuesday evening 7:30-9pm – Table tennis every Tuesday from 9.30am to 12pm – Open Church every Thursday from 10am-12pm
<i>Christ the King & St Colman – Bitterne</i> – Prayer group every Thursday 10.30am-12 noon – Children's liturgy for 4 to 7-year-olds every Sunday during term time	– Tea, coffee, biscuits & friendly chat in the hall after Holy Mass every 1st Sunday of the month – Choir practice in hall - 7:30pm on 2nd & 4th Friday each month. All welcome.
<i>St Brigid – West End</i> – Tea, coffee & cake every 2nd Sunday of the month after Mass	

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on the 15th January, please submit any points of discussion to the office.

Continuing to Support the Church

Please consider setting up a **standing order**.

For Christ the King & St Colman:

Account Name: CDP Christ the King & St Colman
Sort code: 30-93-04
Account Number: 00887553

For Our Lady of the Assumption and St Brigid:

Account Name: CDP Hedge End Our Lady
Sort code: 30-93-04
Account Number: 00879747

Please mention which fund you are donating to as a reference.
Make out cheques for Fr Elijah to Rev Fru N Elijah
Thank you for your support